NIH Research Training Opportunities:
K30 Clinical Research Curriculum Award (CRCA)

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The CRCA is a trans-NIH effort administered by NCRR.

- This award is intended to support the development of formal course work in the design of clinical research projects, hypothesis development, biostatistics, epidemiology, disease mechanisms, medical technology, human genetics, and the legal, ethical, and regulatory issues related to clinical research. The program's long-term goal is to produce clinical researchers who can successfully compete for research support and are knowledgeable about the complex issues associated with conducting sound clinical research.

NCRR career development opportunities

- **Curriculum development program: K30. 51 awards allowing institutions to develop structured clinical research curricula.**

- **Loan repayment program: eligibility requires medical school debt and 2 years of research support.**

- **Roadmap T32 program supporting training pipeline.**

- **NCRR and RM mentored institutional career development awards: K12. Support generally requires 75% trainee time commitment for at least 2 years.**

- **Mentored career development awards: K23.**

Two new K30 awards in 2005

- **Total now 51 programs**

- **K30 awards are cost efficient programs**

- **Tailored to educate groups**

- **Benefit from time donated by mentors**

Evaluation criteria

- **Career Outcomes of Former Participants: At the time of renewal, applicants submitting renewal applications must include an account of the career outcomes of the participants who receive training supported by the CRCA.**

- **The applicant institution is to include a component to assess the effectiveness of the proposed curriculum, including benchmarks against which success of the program can be measured. This component will be an essential review criterion against which renewal applications will be evaluated.**
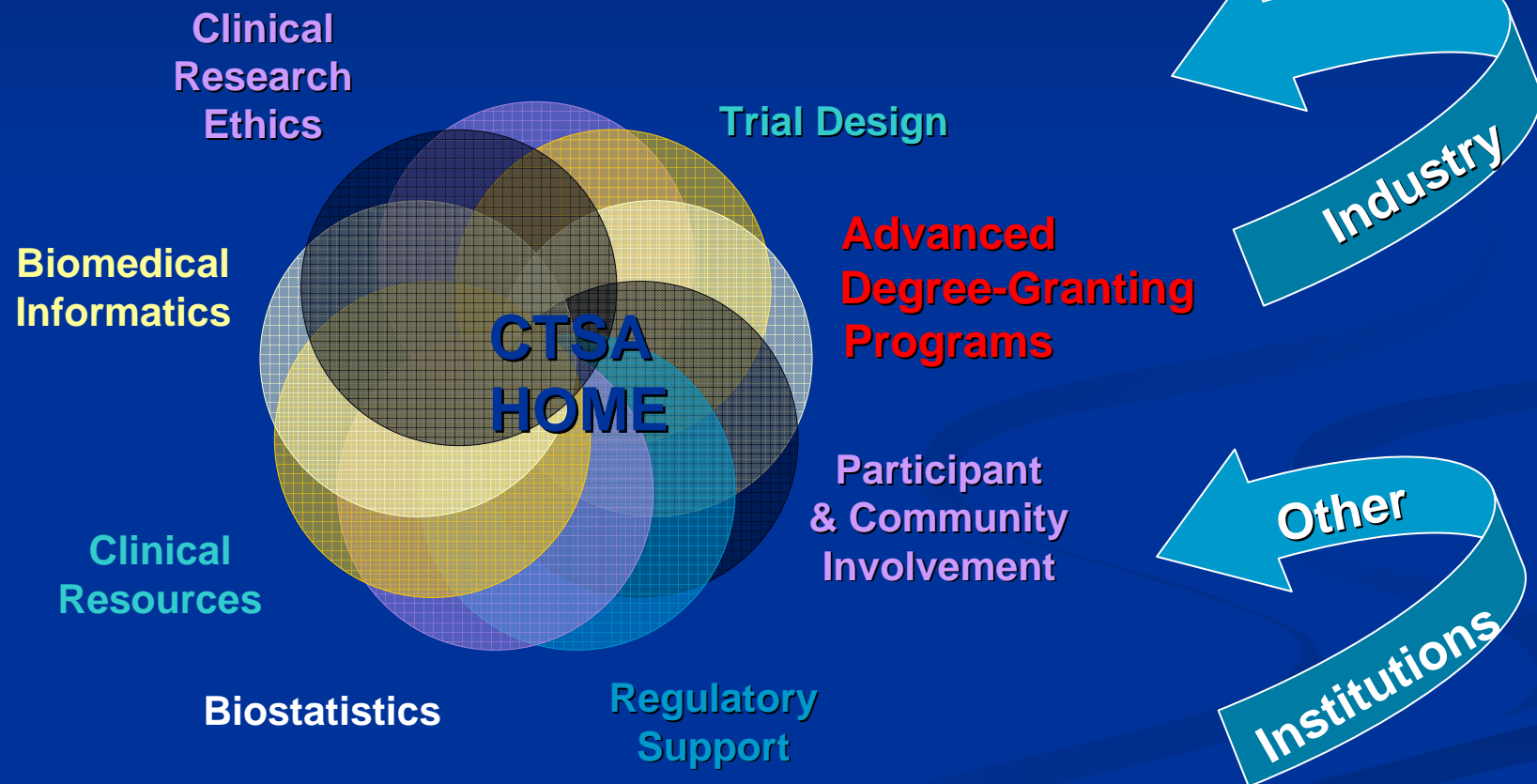
Evaluation challenges

- **Difficult to define a control group**

- **Career development programs facilitate progress but are not gatekeepers**

- **Individuals seeking research careers persevere in adversity**

Of 28 applicants for K23s in 2000-2001 who were unsuccessful

- 4 subsequently obtained a K23

- 16% obtained NIH research funding

- 24% applied for but did not obtain funding

- 60% did not apply to the NIH in 2002-6

NIH CTSA Awards:
A Home for Clinical and Translational Science

Clinical Research Ethics

Trial Design

Biomedical Informatics

Advanced Degree-Granting Programs

CTSA HOME

Participant & Community Involvement

Clinical Resources

Biostatistics

Regulatory Support

Industry

Other

Institutions

Ensure that trainees can obtain recognized qualifications

- Stature comes with recognition of qualifications
- Several institutions have developed PhDs in clinical research
- Masters in Clinical Research widely offered
- Awarding clinical research degrees is core academic function for CTSA program

Researchers willing to question received wisdom

- Change from separate T32, K30, K12 awards to an integrated CTSA component program that will recruit MDs, DDS, DNPs.

- Use institutional environment to train research teams

- Create a mentored environment for the transition to research independence

- Ensure continuing supply of young researchers

Vision

- **Strengthen clinical research as a recognized discipline with a career structure**

- **Create an environment in which research teams will flourish**

- **Enable trainees to use advances in genotyping and biomedical informatics to further collaborative translational and clinical research**

- **Enable trainees to extend their clinical research into the community**